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| Originator<br>Engineering | Item<br><b>2014 ITS Innovative Idea Program – Participation Authorization</b> |
| Agenda Section            | Date<br>6/2/2014  |

Description

Staff is requesting that the Council authorize staff to partner and participate with Alliant Engineering Inc., in applying for funds for the *Local Agency Iris Software Implementation and Documentation Study* under the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) 2014 ITS Innovative Idea Program. If awarded, program funds will be used towards deployment of software to manage wayfinding signage and other traffic assets in the South Loop District.

The Local Road Wayfinding Project in the South Loop District will deploy electronic wayfinding signs on arterial roads around the MOA area to better direct traffic in the district. In addition to the signs and hardware that will be installed, a software and communication system must also be deployed to operate the signs. Staff will be using the MNDOT-developed “IRIS” software, which was developed by the State as an open source software package, meaning the original source code is freely available to the public for re-use and/or modification. However, there are still costs associated with its deployment, including equipment, and the time required to set up and integrate the new devices onto the system (system integration and testing). The purpose of seeking funding through the Innovative Idea Program is to offset these costs.

Alliant Engineering, as the lead agency will be seeking between \$100,000 and \$200,000 under the funding program. A 25% local match is suggested, but can be satisfied with in-kind contributions of material and labor. Staff is proposing a \$10,000 equipment and materials match, with the remaining match amount coming from labor by Public Works Engineering and IT staff. The internal staff and material costs will be required as part of the project in any case, and if funding is received through the program then the consultant costs will be reimbursed through the grant program, reducing the cost of the wayfinding project to the City. The \$10,000 in equipment and materials will be paid for out of departmental operating funds, or State Aid funds.

If the project is selected for funding under the Innovative Idea program, a formal Council resolution will be sought at a later date.

Requested Action

Staff recommends Council authorize staff to partner with Alliant Engineering Inc. to apply for the 2014 ITS Innovative Idea Program administered by MNDOT for the *Local Agency Iris Software Implementation and Documentation Study*.

Attachments: